

I claim:

Claim 1: A knife holder for a microtome having a cutting plane, comprising:

- a knife having a cutting edge, and
- a blade guard comprising a plate,
 - wherein said plate is arranged on a side of said knife remote from a specimen and spaced apart from said cutting plane to the side of said cutting edge of said knife.

Claim 2: The knife holder according to claim 1, wherein said plate extends parallel to and is spaced apart from a surface of said knife.

Claim 3: The knife holder according to claim 1, wherein said plate comprises a transparent material.

Claim 4: The knife holder according to claim 1, further comprising a base member, wherein said plate is arranged pivotably or displaceably on said base member.

Claim 5: The knife holder according to claim 4, further comprising a switch, wherein said plate is coupled to said switch.

Claim 6: The knife holder according to claim 1, wherein said plate has a functional position covering said cutting edge, in which said plate is spaced apart from said cutting edge.

Claim 7: A microtome comprising a knife holder according to claim 1.

Claim 8: The microtome according to claim 7, further comprising a switch, a brake or arresting device, and a knife slide or specimen slide, wherein said switch is coupled to said brake or arresting device for said knife slide or specimen slide.

Claim 9: The microtome according to claim 8, further comprising a circuit that includes a

motorized cutting drive, wherein said switch is arranged in said circuit that includes said motorized cutting drive.

Claim 10: The microtome according to claim 8, further comprising a control panel with switching elements thereon, wherein said switch is connected in series with said switching elements on said control panel.